

## Fiscal Note

*Fiscal Services Division*



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**HF 682** – Postelection Audits (LSB 2125HV)

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Fiscal Note Version – New

Requested by Representative Renee Schulte

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### **Description**

**House File 682** requires a postelection audit to be conducted after each general election in each county. The Bill requires the Secretary of State to issue a notice of the time and place of each postelection audit. The audit is required to be conducted for the offices of president and governor, and an additional office chosen by lot. The number of precincts to be audited will vary based on county population and will range from two precincts (in counties with population of 50,000 or less) to six precincts (in counties of more than 200,000). The Bill requires the ballots of the audited precincts to be counted by hand and requires the audit be completed within two business days following the canvass. The Bill includes procedures for additional audits if the initial postelection audit reveals a difference of greater than one-half of one percent.

### **Assumptions**

For estimating purposes, with the exception of Polk County, counties will appoint postelection audit boards consisting of three to five members. The members will be paid \$7.25 per hour. The average postelection audit will take 5 hours.

Polk County will appoint 11 to 21 members to the postelection audit board. The number of members will depend on the size of the precincts selected for auditing. The board members will be paid \$8.25 per hour. The postelection audit for Polk County will take between 8 and 16 hours.

The Bill requires the Secretary of State to publish the results of the postelection audits. It is assumed the results will be posted on the Secretary of State's website at little or no cost.

### **Fiscal Impact**

House File 682 is estimated to cost counties between \$11,000 and \$21,000 every two years beginning in FY 2011. The Bill will not have a significant fiscal impact on State expenditures.

### **Sources**

Secretary of State  
Polk County Auditor

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/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 12, 2009

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the correctional and minority impact statements were prepared pursuant to [Section 2.56, Code of Iowa](#). Data used in developing this fiscal note, including correctional and minority impact information, is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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